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Officials of 3 Religious Bodies Urge Reform of Intelligence Units

WASHINGTON, Dec. 18 (UPI)—Officials from three religious bodies have urged Congress to give high priority to reforming the intelligence community. In a letter to House Speaker Thomas P. O'Neill Jr., they expressed concern that despite abuses by intelligence agencies, Congress had not passed strict laws to control the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Central Intelligence Agency.

The letter was prompted in part by the disclosure that the F.B.I. had singled out a Unitarian church in Virginia as a target of its counterintelligence operation because the church provided a forum for speakers considered to be part of the "new left."

Signing the letter were Barry Lynn of the United Church of Christ's office for church in society, Robert Alpern, director of the Unitarian Universalist Association's office for social concern, and Hugh Wilhere of the Church of Scientology's national commission on law enforcement and social justice.